

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 315

By McDonald

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Virginia Ann Holtman Thigpen on the celebration of her sixty-fifth birthday.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pay tribute to those citizens who are celebrating special occasions in their estimable lives; and

WHEREAS, Virginia Ann Thigpen celebrated her sixty-fifth birthday on March 27, 2007, a milestone that will be commemorated as yet another precious souvenir of life's rich pageant; and

WHEREAS, Virginia "Ginny" Thigpen was born in Ohio and raised from a young age in Knoxville, she attended Bearden Elementary and Bearden High School, where she was involved in many scholastic activities, including playing the flute in the school band; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from high school in 1959, Ginny Thigpen attended the University of Tennessee, from which she graduated in 1963 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English; she also garnered her master's degree from the University in 1970 and continued her education by taking additional coursework at both Middle Tennessee State University and Western Kentucky University; and

WHEREAS, during her collegiate years, Ms. Thigpen was involved in the Alpha Xi Delta sorority and the UT Singers; it was during the 1961 UT Singers European Tour that she met Walter K. Thigpen, who would become her husband on December 28, 1962; and

WHEREAS, for many years, she served with acumen and alacrity as an English teacher and professor, in which positions she earned the respect of her peers and students alike for the exemplary quality of her work; and

WHEREAS, she taught English at Hillwood High School in Nashville before joining the faculty of the newly-opened Volunteer State Community College in 1973; during her tenure at

Volunteer State, Ms. Thigpen rendered sterling service as an Associate Professor of English and a Speech Communicator before accepting the post of Communication Department Chair; and

WHEREAS, she retired from Volunteer State Community College after dedicating more than twenty-five years to the edification of thousands of students; and

WHEREAS, a dedicated civic leader, Ginny Thigpen has compiled an impressive record of community service, including being elected in 1978 as Sumner County's first female County Commissioner, serving on the Sumner County Election Commission, and standing as President of the Tennessee Women's Political Caucus; and

WHEREAS, she also served as the President of the Gallatin Arts Council; the President of the Board of the Cumberland Mental Health Association; a charter member of the Junior Service League of Gallatin; a member of the Sumner County Ad Hoc Economic Strategy Committee; a member of the Health, Education, and Housing Facilities Board, a member of the Community Chorus, PEO, and Delta Kappa Gamma; a member of the Board of Trustees of the Volunteer State Community College Foundation; and a member of the board of Sumner Academy; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Ginny Thigpen was named as the 2000 Tennessee Educator of the Year and was honored, along with her late husband, at the unveiling of the Thigpen Library at Volunteer State Community College; and

WHEREAS, a dedicated mother and grandmother, she is perhaps proudest of the love she shares with her sons, Michael and Kyle Thigpen, and her grandson, Maddox Thigpen; and

WHEREAS, as she reaches this important milestone, Ms. Thigpen remains an active and productive member of society, and enjoys spending her time shopping, traveling, collecting shoes and German nutcrackers, reading, and volunteering her time and energies to many different causes; and

WHEREAS, we wish to grasp this golden opportunity to specially recognize one of Tennessee's most outstanding citizens on this very special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE

CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate Virginia Ann Holtman Thigpen on the celebration of her sixty-fifth birthday and extend to her our best wishes for much continued success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.